

Baptist Record

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Says Frank Stagg

'The Bible needs no defense'

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

"The Bible needs no defense. The Bible needs to be studied." Frank Stagg, a Bible scholar himself, stands firm on those words.

Stagg wrote *The Doctrine of Christ*, 1985 Church Training doctrinal study book, which is just off the press. In August at Gulfshore he gave a preview of its contents.

When he retired in 1982 as senior professor of New Testament studies at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., he and his wife, Evelyn, moved to Mississippi. Their house at 5610 Ahuawa Place, Diamondhead, is in a quiet cove embraced by ancient live oaks. In his booklined study there he wrote *The Doctrine of Christ*.

Last school year, from September until April, they spent in Switzerland, where he was Visiting Professor of New Testament at the International Baptist Seminary at Rueschlikon. "Living in Switzerland was a joy," Mrs. Stagg said, and pointed to the coffee table and a huge picture book of that country. "We drove 6,000 miles in Europe, mostly in Switzerland. There were 79 students at the seminary, from 29 nations."

The National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion is honoring Frank Stagg by presenting his teachings in the Winter Issue, 1984-85, of "Perspectives in Religious Studies." Festshrift they call this presentation. It includes a biographical sketch, bibliography of his writings, and articles by him on five

subjects: Greek grammar, textual criticism, New Testament theology, New Testament and ethics, and the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.

Above the mantel in the Diamondhead den is a painting of the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, a gift when he left the faculty of New Orleans Seminary in 1964. "My grandfather's grandparents were married in that cathedral," said Stagg. "The groom, a Protestant, married a Catholic and so began a few generations of Staggs who were Catholics. Then my grandfather, Etienne Stagg, and his brother, Adolphe, somehow obtained a Bible—I don't know how. They read it and became Baptists. They decided, 'Don't trust in any creed.' That influenced me. I don't trust in a creed either."

He was born in Acadia Parish, La., and baptized at age 11 at First Baptist Church, Eunice. That church ordained him Sept. 11, 1933, the same day it ordained G. Earl Guinn, a Mississippi native who became president of Louisiana College. Last year the church honored the two on the 50th anniversary of their ordination.

Stagg was graduated from Louisiana College and earned a doctor of philosophy degree at Southern Seminary. He did advanced study at universities in Scotland, Switzerland and Germany. He was pastor of First Church, DeRidder, La., 1941-44. In 1945 he became professor of New Testament and Greek at New Orleans

Seminary and remained there until 1964. He was professor of New Testament at Southern Seminary from 1964 until his retirement two years ago.

At Louisiana College he met Evelyn Owen, whom he married Aug. 19, 1935. Born at Ruston, she grew up in Alexandria, La., and studied at Judson College in Alabama two years before transferring to Louisiana College.

"She has always been a student," her husband said. "She took most of the seminary courses I did, including Greek, but at that time women could not get a degree there." She received an M.R.E. degree from WMU Training School and did further graduate work at Northwestern University and Tulane. Stagg was an assistant grader and recalled, "I knew she was brilliant from the time I graded her test paper and she made 100."

Their children are Ginger Shane, who does clothes designs for the Cleveland Ballet, Cleveland, Ohio; Ted, of Anchorage, Alaska, an engineer with Sohio; and Bob, a Louisville artist.

Why did they choose to retire in Mississippi? They give several reasons: "We like to be near salt water. Here we are a mile from the Bay of St. Louis. We take our boat out as far as 15 miles—often take friends to Pass Christian, our favorite launching spot. We ride the Sound, the Jourdan River, the Rotten Bayou.

"Mississippi is not far from our Louisiana relatives and of course we have friends in Mississippi, too. We didn't anticipate such a warm reception from the churches across the state.

"We are only an hour from New Orleans. There's not a traffic light for the 55 miles between our house and Canal Street." They drive to St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, where they are members.

"This place is 90 feet above sea level, has few mosquitoes, no flies, and nearly always a cool breeze from the sea."

Their two grandsons (they have six grandchildren) from Alaska, 12 and 13, had caught some Spanish mackerel, one morning in August, so the grandmother planned to cook the fish for lunch.

Frank Stagg is author of numerous books, articles, and commentaries. For instance: *The Book of Acts*, *The Early Struggle for an Unhindered Gospel*, *Exploring the New Testa-*

ment; Polarities of Man's Existence in Biblical Perspective; The Holy Spirit Today. He was managing editor of *Review and Expositor*, 1965-71 and '73-'75, and consulting editor of *The Broadman Bible Commentary*, New Testament Section.

Retirement has given him an opportunity for even more writing. Now he is at work on a book, he said, based on "the fresh wine and the wineskins—" the essential and abiding over against the negotiable and replaceable. "Values are abiding. Customs change."

"Worship is the wine, forms of worship the skins. Life in ministry is the wine—structures of ministry (Sunday School, CT, etc.) the skins. Sometimes the wineskins have leaked out all the wine. The integrity of living the Christian life is knowing the difference between the wine and the wineskins."

Another book he plans to do will be from the Four Gospels—directly from what Jesus did and said about what salvation is, what it requires, what it brings about, what it offers, what it demands.

"These books I'm writing now are like harvest time," he said. "They are a sort of overflow from research I've done over many years."

He stressed, "If you wait until the ideal time, you will never write a book." When does he write? "I salvage time. I fight for time. I just set a goal and do it. I have written even on Christmas afternoons, after our family time together." And he added, "A book should not be written unless you HAVE to write it. Just to write to have another book is no reason to do it."

He and his wife are co-authors of *Women in the World of Jesus*. On this subject he said, "Men and women have different roles—but not first and second. I was never a chauvinist. We had grown up to the idea, the custom, that women were sort of second place, but that is not the way that Jesus taught it. Plato said that women are inferior, intellectually, socially, physically. That is not so."

"Jesus didn't talk down to women. He respected their rights, but reminded them of their responsibilities."

About women's ordination, he said, "If we are going to ordain anyone, let's ordain men or women, according to their gifts. I'm not sure if we

should ordain anyone. If we do, then sex or race is irrelevant to ministry. Being in Christ and having gifts are relevant.

"Ordination has a weak base in the Bible. The Greek original has no word for ordained. The prophets were not ordained. Jesus was not ordained. Paul may not have been ordained. The Jewish priests were. Those who went before the altar with a sacrifice were the ones who were ordained."

"Ministry is inherent in salvation. We are saved to servanthood, not to be ministered unto, but to minister. All have different gifts."

"Many who are against the ordination of women look only at Paul's regulations, and not at Jesus' teachings or at the Bible as a whole. Why, if they are going to follow Paul's regulations, don't they make women wear veils?"

On the inerrancy question, Stagg said, "The use of that word is not correct. It is most unfortunate and destructive."

"We do not show respect for the Bible by paying it compliments. We show respect for the authority of the Bible when we pay the price of trying to understand its intentions and by trying to comply with it. It is easy to say nice words about the Bible. It is costly to pay the price of studying it."

"Many who say they believe in the inerrancy of the Bible say it without even opening the Bible. This is divisive. It does no good and much evil. Many who pretend to believe the Bible in fact don't even read it. The prejudiced pick texts that suit their own bias."

He said that any text should be interpreted by the Bible as a whole and any part of the Bible should be interpreted by the lordship of Jesus. For example, Leviticus 11:9-11 says we can't eat catfish: "All that have not fins and scales . . . in the waters . . . ye shall not eat." Then Jesus gives us permission to eat catfish: "There is nothing from without a man that entering into him can defile him, but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man (Mark 7:15)."

"The historic Baptist position is," Stagg said, "to take the whole Bible, and then let Jesus be Lord. Take what Jesus says as the final position on a matter."



Frank and Evelyn Stagg, in his book-lined study, display the book they wrote together, *Women in the World of Jesus*.



Frank and Evelyn Stagg ride a tandem bicycle for recreation at Diamondhead. They also go boating and hiking. Bird watching, they have seen bald eagles over the Jourdan River.

Editorials by don mcgregor

Baptist system requires convention

Mississippi Baptists need to be giving thought to their annual convention, which will be Nov. 12 to 14 in Jackson. Historically, it is not well attended; but then, most conventions suffer the same circumstance.

Conventions are time consuming, but they are necessary. There are decisions that must be made; and the broader the base of those who make them, the stronger the convention will be.

Conventions are expensive. In most cases, those who attend do so because their church or organization is paying their way. That is fine. Those expenses need to be paid out of organizational budgets when it is possible. That leaves out a lot of people, however, who need to be at the convention. Only those churches with incomes large enough can afford to cover the expenses, but there are hundreds of smaller churches whose members are needed just as much as are those from the larger churches.

Simple arithmetic points out that not nearly every church sends messengers. There are more than 1,900 churches; but messenger registration never reaches 1,500, and many churches send messengers in pairs as the pastor and his wife attend. That could mean that no more than half of the churches are represented.

A number of highly significant decisions will be made this year. The annual budget is always a major item, for it is our way of financing a worldwide missions operations on the part of individual Baptists through the ministry of the Cooperative Program. This year's budget

projection is \$18 million.

Consideration will also be given to a proposal to conduct a sizeable endowment campaign for the colleges and the Children's Village, and there will be a report from the convention-appointed committee to study the feasibility of having a pastors' conference in the state. Both of these matters can have far-reaching consequences.

Then there will be an emphasis on Planned Growth in Giving as the national chairman, T. T. Crabtree of Springfield, Mo., presents a major message. Planned Growth in Giving is an effort to increase the amount of money given to missions dramatically as a means of funding Bold Mission Thrust. The latter concept is Southern Baptists' project for making a Christian witness available to every person in the world by the end of the century.

Churches need to elect their messengers, and those messengers must make whatever arrangements are necessary to attend. Some of the finest speakers in the nation are going to be on the program this year to serve in the inspirational portions of the program. It will be a time of enrichment, and it will be a time of necessary decisions.

It should be an exciting time, and attendance should be good.

Let's get ready for our next year of work with a positive and forward-looking convention.

Correction

A word left out of the editorial in last week's *Baptist Record* altered the meaning of a paragraph, though the readers very likely recognized the omission and understood the meaning. In the editorial, "Delivered up to the councils," the paragraph read:

It doesn't make any difference that Barber or any of the others never intended to do any of those things and didn't do any of them. They were enjoined from taking those actions in a legal instrument, and contents of the instrument were published. The public had no way of knowing, if they didn't know the defendants, but what the defendants had already been guilty of the action or were of such temperament that there was cause to believe that they would do such things. Such was the case, obviously.

Also obviously, the word "not" was left out of the last sentence. It should have read, "Such was not the case, obviously."

Such is the work of gremlins in type.

Guest Editorial . . .

The Southern Baptist Convention

An eight-part series

Part 1

By Owen Cooper

The Southern Baptist Convention was organized in Augusta, Ga., in 1845, at which meeting a charter and bylaws were adopted. The chapter stated the purpose of the convention to be:

It is the purpose of the Convention to provide a general organization for Baptists in the United States and its territories for the promotion of Christian missions at home and abroad and any other objects such as Christian education, benevolent enterprises, and social services, which it may deem proper and advisable for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God.

Those organizing the convention felt that the best way to carry out the previously stated purpose would be through meetings of representatives from the related churches to be called "messengers" who would assemble periodically to take such action as the group might consider the best interests in carrying out the objectives. Such action would be "non-binding" upon any church, and under no circumstances would or could the convention take action that would

threaten the autonomy of the local church.

The constitution also states:

While independent and sovereign in its own sphere, the Convention does not claim and will never attempt to exercise any authority over any other Baptist body, whether church, auxiliary organizations, associations, or convention.

The organizers also felt that certain organizations or agencies should be established as a means through which a united effort could be made to attain the objectives.

At the organization meeting, there was created an agency for home mission work and an agency for foreign mission work. Throughout its life, these agencies have continued in existence. The Home Mission Board, headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., now has 3,792 missionaries and a total budget of \$60 million, including Cooperative Program gifts, designated gifts through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, interest on church loan funds, and other sources.

The Foreign Mission Board, lo-



Evangelicals elected to Argentine congress

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA (EP)—During the recent national elections in Argentina eight evangelicals were elected to the congress and several others won government positions in the administration of President Paul Alfonsín. One is a Baptist doctor who became the chief of the municipal service for Buenos Aires which provides health care for the elderly.

This participation of evangelicals in national politics is a first for

Argentina, according to PUENTE, an organization of Latin American evangelicals. Argentine law requires both its president and vice-president to be Roman Catholic.

Very recently President Alfonsín had welcomed a world-wide youth conference sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance of Buenos Aires. In his talk to the Baptist youth, Alfonsín pledged to follow biblical principles in his administration.

Seminary, New Orleans Seminary, Southeastern Seminary, Southern Seminary, Southwestern Seminary, Southern Baptist Foundation, American Seminary Commission, Brotherhood Commission, Christian Life Commission, Education Commission, Historical Commission, Radio and TV Commission, and Stewardship Commission.

Auxiliaries/Cooperating Relationships: Baptist World Alliance; Executive Committee, SBC; Joint Committee on Public Affairs; North American Baptist Fellowship; and Women's Missionary Union.

On the average, all Cooperative Program funds received for SBC causes are distributed as follows: Foreign Mission Board — 50 percent; Home Mission Board — 19 percent; seminaries — 21 percent; Radio and TV Commission — 4.5 percent; all others — 5.5 percent. The 1984 Southern Baptist Convention budget was \$125 million.

Owen Cooper, a retired industrialist in Yazoo City, is a past president of both the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Jimmy D. Edwards delivers the dedicatory address at the Baptist Book Store. He is vice-president for publishing and distribution, Baptist Sunday School Board.



William S. Graham, director, Book Store Division, Baptist Sunday School Board, welcomes people gathered to take part in the dedication of a new store in Jackson. At far left is Charles McGlocklin, manager of the Jackson book store.

The Baptist Record

State convention plans inspiration

Two West Texas pastors will be among six out-of-state preachers who will be a part of the program Nov. 12 to 14 for the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson.

It will be the 149th session of the convention.

Charles Pickering, a Laurel attorney, is president of the convention; and Robert Hanvey, pastor of First Church, Brookhaven, is chairman of the committee on order of business, the committee that is charged with fashioning the program.

D. L. Lowrie, pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas, and Winfred Moore, pastor of First Church, Amarillo, Texas, are the two West Texas pastors who will be on the program. Moore is president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas at this time. His immediate predecessor was Lowrie. Lowrie has also been chairman of the Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Lowrie, a native of Tennessee and a graduate of Carson-Newman College, has ties to Mississippi in that his wife, the former Alice Reynolds, is a graduate of Blue Mountain College.

Lowrie will deliver the first three of six Bible Treasure features, beginning with the opening session on Monday afternoon. Moore will deliver the closing message on Wednesday morning.

Another of the out-of-state speakers will be former Mississippian Frank Pollard. He is now president of Golden Gate Seminary at Mill Valley, Calif., on the shore of San Francisco Bay. From 1974 until 1980 Pollard was pastor of First Church, Jackson. Pollard also will speak on Wednesday morning.

T. T. Crabtree, national chairman for Planned Growth in Giving, is pastor of First Church, Springfield, Mo. He will speak on Planned Growth in Giving at the Monday night session.

Two Southern Baptist Convention agency staff members will round out the six from out of state. Bill O'Brien, executive vice-president of the Foreign Mission Board, will deliver the closing message for the Tuesday afternoon session. Bill Nichols, a staff member for the Radio and Television Commission, will speak at the close of the Tuesday morning session.

Three speakers will be Mississippi residents. Pickering will deliver the president's address on Monday afternoon. The annual sermon will be delivered by Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Greenville.

The final three Bible Treasure features will be delivered by a Mississippian who has returned to the state after a career that kept him out of it.

He is Grady Cothen, who recently retired as president of the Sunday School Board. He now lives at Pass Christian. He has been president of New Orleans Seminary, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, and executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California. In addition he has been the pastor of several churches.

The Bible Treasure features are regular parts of each convention, and generally are about 20 minutes of biblical exposition. There will be six this year. As usual, there will be one

Traditionally, presidents have served for two years. The election of the other officers will be on Tuesday afternoon. During this year, Ervin Brown, director of missions for Northwest Association, has been first vice-president. The second vice-president has been J. C. Renfro, director of missions for Rankin Association.

The recording secretary is J. Clark Hensley of Jackson, who is the retired executive director of the Christian Action Commission. The assistant recording secretary is Paul



Moore



Lowrie



Pollard



Cothen

in each of the sessions.

Also as usual, business matters will be given a major portion of time during the convention. There will be reports from the various agencies scattered throughout the session. In addition there will be a report from the pastors' conference study committee and from the institutional endowment study committee. Both of these reports will be presented on Tuesday afternoon.

The election of officers will begin with the election of a president on Tuesday morning. Pickering the current president, has served only one term and is eligible for another.

Harwood, pastor of College Heights Church, Oxford.

The budget for 1985 will be presented on Monday night, and resolutions will be presented on Tuesday morning. The vote on the adoption of the budget will come on Tuesday morning also.

Another feature of this year's convention will be a history of choral music in Mississippi to be presented by Dan Hall, director of the Department of Church Music on Tuesday evening. The musicians who will be participating in the convention will be presented in a subsequent story.

BSSB officials open new bookstore site

A new Baptist Book Store was dedicated in a 9:30 a.m. service on Oct. 3. The store was recently moved from its long-time location at President and Amite in downtown Jackson to Westland Plaza, at 965 Ellis Avenue. Jimmy D. Edwards, vice-president for publishing and distribution, Baptist

Sunday School Board, Nashville, gave the dedicatory address.

"This is the first Baptist superstore," Edwards said. It contains much more floor space than the store just vacated.

"This is a Baptist place," he said, "a book place (we like it to be called the Bible place) and a store, a place of commerce.

"It exists for the people. We wish to give service with a Christian distinctive, so that everyone who walks through the door would have a feeling of the spirit of Christ.

"Our purpose is to assist churches in winning the lost to Jesus Christ and to help them to grow in discipleship."

Frank Stovall, chairman, Department of Music, Mississippi College, presented special music.

Others on program included William S. Graham, director, Book Store Division, Baptist Sunday School Board; Charles McGlocklin, manager of the Jackson Baptist Book Store; Chester Vaughn, program director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Earl Kelly, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and J. W. Brister, director of missions, Hinds-Madison Association.

Open House was held at the store throughout the day. Among the guests present at the dedication service was Mrs. O. M. Jones, of Memphis, manager of the Jackson Book Store many years, until her retirement.

Goals set to fight pornography

CINCINNATI, OH (EP)—More than 350 Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christian leaders met in Cincinnati for the second annual Consultation on Pornography, Obscenity and Indecency, September 6-7.

Specific goals for fighting pornography during the coming year were set by the group, according to Jerry Kirk, pastor of College Hill Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati and chairman of the consultation. These goals are (1) picketing of 7-11 stores, the largest retailer of pornographic magazines, (2) establishing "Pornography Awareness Week," Oct. 27-Nov. 4, (3) urging public protest against pornography, and (4) working with law enforcement authorities at all levels to combat pornography on the streets, in stores and on television.



BSU Center at Northwest

A new Baptist Student Center for Northwest Mississippi Junior College, Senatobia, has been dedicated. The former residence is adjacent to the campus and is the first BSU center for the college. Shown above at the dedication service are, left to right, Rick Alford, BSU director; John Flowers, pastor of First Church, Senatobia; Ervin Brown, director of missions for the Northwest Association and second vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; and Jerry Merri-man, director of student work for the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Brown delivered the dedicatory address.

RTVC okays \$13 million budget to expand ACTS

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—A \$13-million budget, approved by Radio and Television Commission trustees for fiscal year 1984-85, will provide approximately \$4 million for new programming and expansion of the three-month-old American Christian Television System and begin repayment of the \$4.3 million loan used to finance the network's first year.

The commission will have to raise \$2.6 million through its development program during 1984-85 to support the network, according to the budget.

Commission President Jimmy R. Allen told trustees: "We can't do long-range planning. No one has ever done this before. Our experience base is so small."

He added: "The \$4.2 million loan will let us go through this year while we get our development program in gear. We have been in a tremendous frenzy to launch the ACTS network, and now we need an intermediate plan for the next 24 months."

Allen reported ACTS is adding an average of 100,000 cable TV subscribers per week. The network has signed on 107 cable systems totaling 1.6 million subscribers, which represent more than four million potential viewers. "We already have daily access to more people than Southern

Baptists have in Sunday school, on any given Sunday," he said.

"We can make the network, and we have set up a monthly budget review to make sure we stay on track," he said. He also assured the 26-member board the budget will allow ACTS to grow without jeopardizing the commission's overall work.

The 1984-85 budget includes a \$4.9 million allocation from the SBC Cooperative Program budget, adopted during the 1984 annual meeting of the SBC in Kansas City.

Trustees voted to request \$5,690,000 from the 1985-86 Cooperative Program, a 15 percent increase. The request was made at the September meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

To borrow the \$4.3 million, the commission issued notes totalling that amount Aug. 10 through the A.B. Culbertson Co. for an underwriting cost of \$236,500. All bonds were sold in advance of the issue, Edwards said, and no commission assets were pledged as security.

To help repay them, the commission will use the \$2.1 million pledged April 12 during 45 ACTS satellite launch dinners.

As follow-up to the April 12 effort, Allen reported the commission will host informational luncheons in 31 cities beginning in October. He said the meetings are in keeping with Southern Baptist development guidelines.

TV to promote world missions

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Missions-hearted Southern Baptists across the convention will soon have the opportunity to be linked together through Baptist Telecommunication network (BTN) for teleconferences on home and foreign missions.

Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, and the

Home and Foreign Mission board were working with associational leaders to make BTN's first home missions and foreign missions teleconferences effective tools in bringing missions to life for Southern Baptists.

"We want to introduce more Southern Baptists to missions and to missionaries. We believe that live teleconferences provide a unique opportunity for mission education," said Carol Kelly, WMU, SBC Communications Group manager.

The teleconferences will focus on missions efforts, both past and present, with major emphasis on the weeks of prayer.

The Foreign-Missions Teleconference will be Dec. 1, 1984, Feb. 9, 1985 will be the Home Missions Teleconference date.

The BTN teleconferences follow a highly successful pilot project launched last year in conjunction with the Week of Prayer for Home Missions. The pilot teleconference was not broadcast over BTN, and viewing sites were in 10 participating cities. More than 2,130 people attended the pilot teleconference.

The teleconferences are scheduled as associational events. However, anyone having satellite receiving equipment may view the conferences

by tuning to Spacenet I satellite, 120 degrees West Longitude, Transponder No. 1. The BTN signal will not be scrambled during these live transmissions.

Each teleconference will be broadcast from 1:00-2:30 p.m., EST.

The December 1 teleconference will launch the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The Week of Prayer for Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering will be launched with the February 9 teleconference.

Dukes takes N.O. faculty New Testament position

NEW ORLEANS—Jimmy Ward Dukes has been elected to fill the position of assistant professor of New Testament in the School of Christian Training at New Orleans Seminary.

Dukes is a Jackson native with more than 24 years of pastoral experience in churches in Mississippi and Louisiana. His election to the seminary's faculty follows more than a year's full-time service as a contract teacher. Dukes also serves as part-time pastor of Elysian Fields Avenue Church in New Orleans.

Landrum P. Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary, notes the election of Dukes continues the commitment of the seminary's trustees and administration to provide faculty members who combine practical experience and academic preparation. Members of the New Orleans Seminary faculty average more than 12 years of experience in local churches prior to assumption of teaching responsibilities, Leavell added.

A graduate of Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss., Dukes earned the master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

Prior to assuming his teaching responsibilities in the School of Christian Training, Dukes served churches in Greenwood, Cleveland, and Meadville, Miss., as well as churches in Kentwood and New Orleans, La.

Dukes is married to the former Reita James of Vardaman, Miss., they have two sons. He is the son of George T. Dukes, a minister, and Mrs. Dukes, of Prentiss, Miss.

"Let any people, anywhere, lay themselves out for the kingdom and all the powers of heaven will fight for them." — J. B. Gambrell

State gifts ahead but miss budget projection

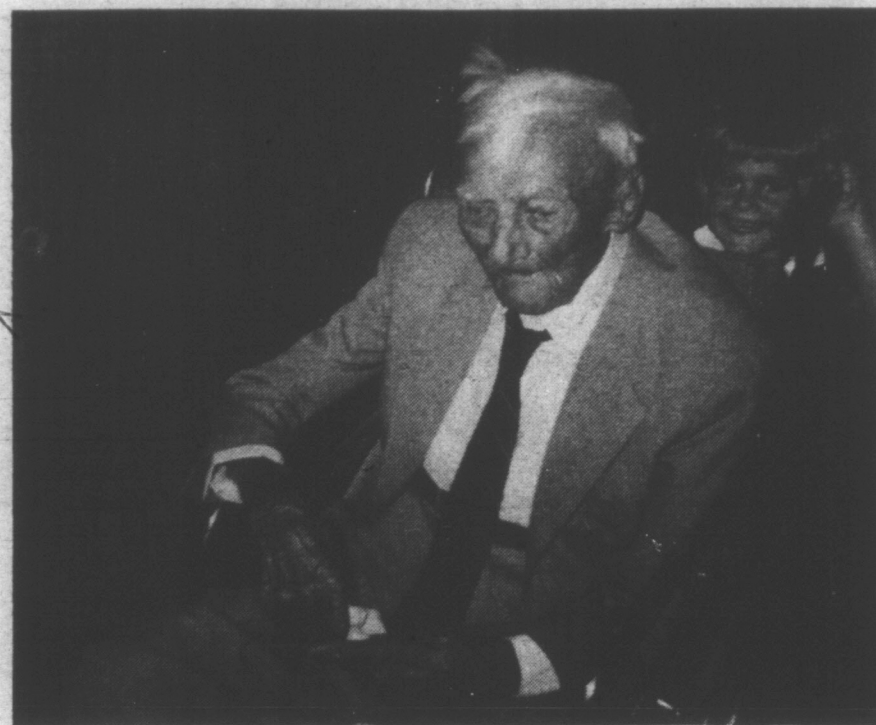
Mississippi Baptists' Cooperative Program receipts through September are \$515,239 ahead of the same period for last year but \$573,176 behind the pro rata budget figure for the period, according to Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The budget income for the first nine months has been \$11,790,574 as compared with the pro rata figure for nine months of \$12,363,750, Kelly indicated. It was noted, however, that

September ended on a Sunday, thus delaying the missions receipts from many churches. The gifts that did not get in the office in time to be counted for September will be added to the October receipts, it was pointed out.

At \$1,063,453, September was the lowest month for 1984 in missions gifts. It fell behind the same month of 1983 by \$150,105. Gifts through September of last year had amounted to \$11,275,335.

The total budget for 1984 is \$16,485,000.



100 years difference

More than 100 years separates the ages of R. H. Whaley, who is 104, and his great grandson, Andrew Whaley, who pushes him in the parking lot at Bowmar Avenue Church, Vicksburg. The elder Whaley still attends church services. Fred E. Robertson is pastor of Bowmar Avenue Church.

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Students vote to sponsor 70 in summer missions

By Anne W. McWilliams

The Mississippi Baptist Student Union, in convention in Clinton Sept. 28-30, voted to sponsor 70 students in summer missions in 1985 and to raise \$75,000 to support the 1985 student missions program.

Students from across the state heard the featured speakers, Mildred McWhorter, James Slack, Pam Randle, and Charles Johnson, during their convention at Morrison Heights Church. Mildred McWhorter is a Christian Social Ministries missionary in Houston, Tex.; James Slack is a missionary to the Philippines; Pam Randle, former missionary journeyman to Bogota, Colombia, is assistant BSU director at Blue Mountain College; Charles Johnson is secretary, National Student Ministries, Baptist Sunday School Board. Kermit McGregor, pastor of the host church, welcomed at least 700 students to the Friday evening service.

In a special service Saturday evening, there were 36 decisions. Among these were seven decisions to enter missions service and five to enter

One on Clarksdale

High court takes new church-state actions

WASHINGTON (BP) — Returning to the bench Oct. 1 for its new term, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review yet another religion case, bringing to four the number of major church-state disputes it intends to resolve by next summer.

In an order list totaling some 1,000 cases, high court justices announced they will decide if a Nebraska woman is entitled to a valid driver's license in spite of her refusal on religious grounds to be photographed as required by state law.

Frances J. Quaring, who insists that having her photograph made would violate the second of the ten commandments ("Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing . . ."), was denied a driver's license under provisions of a Nebraska law which, like those in many other states, requires a photograph.

Quaring, who holds no church membership, won her case in a federal court of appeals which ruled the requirement violated her free exercise of religion (83-1944, Jensen v. Quaring).

Besides the driver's license case, the high court had agreed earlier this year to review an Alabama law providing for silent prayer in public school classrooms, a Grand Rapids, Mich., practice of sending public school teachers into parochial school classrooms to provide specialized instruction and a Connecticut law requiring private employers to give their workers a day off each week as requested for religious observances.

Although the Nebraska driver's license case was one of 31 accepted for review on the court's first day



Lloyd Lunceford presents the award for the most money raised through the Run/Walk for summer missions to Winnie Walmsley, Blue Mountain College.

church vocations.

Students voted to accept the recommendation of their state student missions committee, Dennis Atwood of Mississippi College, chairman, concerning the number of summer missionaries to sponsor and the amount of financial support needed. They also voted that from an \$11,142.06 overage (from money the students gave for the 1984 student missions budget), \$8,000 be used in 1985 for other-than-summer-missions projects and

\$3,142.06 be placed in the general operating account of the student missions fund.

The Fishermen, musical group from Mississippi State, opened Friday evening's program with a mini-concert. Jerry Jones led the singing at the beginning of each session. He is manager of the Student Section, Foreign Mission Board.

An interpretation of the convention theme, "God's Purpose — My Mission," had been written and was directed by Marshall Walker, Supervisor, Communications Service Section, Baptist Sunday School Board. This was done in drama and music as the highlight of Friday evening's presentations.

Daniel Hathorne, Ole Miss, state BSU president, presided Friday and Saturday nights. Jeannette Herring, Mississippi State, vice president, presided Saturday morning. Student missionaries, 1984, served as ushers. "The Reasons," Gulf Coast Junior College, presented special music Saturday.

Blue Mountain College captured all the prizes in the Saturday afternoon three-mile walk/run for student missions. Saturday evening Lloyd Lunceford, associate, state Department of Student Work, recognized and presented a gift to the campus with the greatest number of students participating in the walk/run. The campus was Blue Mountain. He recognized the campus with the greatest amount of money pledged through the walk/run. It was Blue Mountain. He recognized the individual student with the greatest amount of money pledged through the walk/run. It was Winnie Walmsley of Blue Mountain College.

During the weekend \$6,000 was raised toward the 1985 student mission goal. An offering was taken that amounted to \$414.74.

Marjean Patterson, executive director, Mississippi WMU, led the Bible study sessions.

Lloyd Lunceford directed a panel discussion on Saturday evening, questioning four 1984 summer missionaries about their experiences — Cathy McCommon, Northeast Junior College, who went to Hawaii; Debbie Gilbert, MC, who went to Jordan; Nina Sheives, Meridian Junior College, who worked on the Mississippi Gulf Coast; and Michael Franklin, Mississippi State, who served in Israel.

Mildred McWhorter in her message on Saturday evening told the moving story of a little girl named Coco, from a poverty-stricken home, who kept seeking her attention and staying after hours at the Baptist Center in Houston. The child kept saying over and over, "I love you." At first she tried to send her on home. Finally, when she realized the neglected child's need and held her in her arms, the child began crying and told her, "I want somebody to love me."

Miss McWhorter challenged the students: "Who is your Coco? Is it your grandmother, your brother, your friend, your neighbor?"

Thursday, October 11, 1984

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



A panel of summer missionaries was interviewed Saturday evening by Lloyd Lunceford, associate, Department of Student Work. Left to right: Cathy McCommon, Northeast Junior College, Hawaii; Debbie Gilbert, Mississippi College, Jordan; Nina Sheives, Meridian Junior College, Gulfport and Biloxi; Michael Franklin, Mississippi State, Israel.



Daniel Hathorne, left, state BSU president, talks with fellow Ole Miss students, Scott Kellum, Troy Hurdle, and Mark Brown.



"Use Me, Lord" sings Sherri West of Mississippi College, summer missionary, 1984, in California. Betty Smith, right, interprets in sign language for the deaf. Miss Smith is secretary in the state WMU department.

HOMEcoming DAY

First Baptist Church, Florence, Mississippi
October 21, 1984

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Rev. James Fancher, former pastor
Mr. Jimmy Bilbo, former minister of music
FORMER MEMBERS AND FRIENDS INVITED.

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 Morning Worship

Bro. Fancher preaching

12 NOON DINNER ON THE GROUNDS

7 o'clock Evening Worship

Bro. Fancher preaching

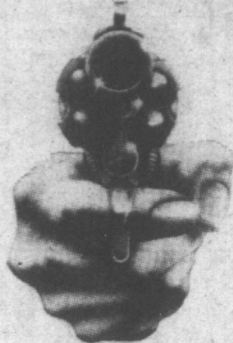
Bro. Bilbo in miniconcert

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Rev. Ton. F. Rayburn, pastor

Intensive care



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as a loaded gun.
Don't take chances
with your life*

How to cope with drug signs

Q. What do you do when you see signs of chemical usage in your children?

A. Not only can help come from parents, but is a must. If channels of communication are blocked, try to open them. Rather than nagging and humiliating, parents need to understand and listen more. Give special attention to the issues. Know where your children are, with whom, and when they are to come home. Use firmness without being dominating. Refuse undue demands. The subtle nature of addiction requires that pa-

rents do not take anything for granted or assume that the problem will simply go away.

Q. What does one do when a child gets in trouble with the law, has a wreck, or gets in trouble with school officials?

A. Do not try to fix matters. Don't plead with people to let these youngsters back in school. If the person using drugs or drinking wrecks the car, let him pay to get it repaired. Don't make an easy way out! You may have to face the identical problem again.

Letters to the Editor

Ministry in New York

Editor:

Your front page of *The Baptist Record* on Sept. 27 was excellent coverage of Metro Baptist Church, Manhattan, and the work that is going on in that tiny, new Southern Baptist Church. Some congregations may have missed this news, as their churches may use the front page as the church bulletin. May I please give a capsule of the news story?

About 40 volunteers from Georgia, including former President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter, stayed at Metro while doing renovation on apartments for Habitat for Humanity, which will be sold next year for about \$35,000, a very low price for Manhattan. To show the commitment of this tiny church, Metro gave \$5,000 last year, the very first contribution to start this project, even BEFORE THEY SECURED A PERMANENT CHURCH BUILDING for themselves. The 120-member church recently bought the five story church building, which includes two floors of dormitory space, for \$1.7 million from Daytop Drug Rehabilitation Center. The building was formerly a church. It is located across from the Port Authority Building, and the sign, Metro Baptist Church, A SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH, is seen by millions daily.

Miracles happen monthly, as contributions come in from all over the U.S. to cover the monthly interest payments, currently \$16,000, with a balloon payment of \$540,000 due next June, and the principle and interest begin then on the remaining \$875,000. As they share with this great city, will you help them carry this burden? Lift them daily in prayers.

Gene Bolin is pastor, and the church is located at 410 West 40th Street, New York, NY 10018. Share

this location with your Mississippi friends who live in NYC.

Kathleen Corley Mason
Jackson

Battle confusion

Editor:

I'm confused. Confused, really, that on a Monday morning when so much is swirling around me that needs my immediate attention I find myself writing a letter to the editor of *The Baptist Record*—something I've never done before.

The cause of this response is still more confusion regarding the controversy between the liberals and the conservatives in the SBC. I read with a great deal of interest the articles in the Sept. 13 issue of the *Record*—the one by Dan Martin, "Patterson seeks debate with Roy Honeycutt," and the other entitled "Seminary president declares 'holy war' in SBC battle."

I read what Patterson said and agreed with him. Then I read what Honeycutt said and agreed with him. I can't get a fix on what the big difference is anyway. To tag anyone a "liberal" gets the hackles up on most of us southerners—we're a'gin them liberals... whatever that is. Surely more of your readers are confused, too.

If you feel that it would not cause more divisiveness, could you give us a clear cut article outlining the stands taken by both parties?

I did not consider my need to know so important until I read your thought provoking editorial last week. "Is the SBC still useful?" That was scary. From what you say, it seems that it is vital for all members of the proletariat to be informed fully and not to sit back and "let Sam do it." The Lord does not speak two ways. There should be a consensus that is right—that is His will. Can you help us?

Sincerely,
A. F. Roberts, Jr.
Jackson

SCRAPBOOK

Something of Autumn

There is something of Autumn
in a shower of golden leaves,
smoky blue haze rising.
Pears turning russet and yellow
foretell another harvest.

There is something of Autumn
in the chorus of crickets,
earlier sunsets,
clouds fired with coral.
Wild asters splash lavender
and purple on roadsides.

There is something of Autumn
in the familiar sound
of school bells.
Parades of children
gathered in halls,
expectant to begin a new year.

There is something of Autumn
when I hear the call of wild geese
that makes me aware
God provides continuity
for all his creatures.
I give thanks,
praise him
for blessings.

—Eunice D. Barnes
Pascagoula

Asking

We ask God for so many things,
little things, trivial things.
Asking so much, giving so little.
Turning to God complaining about
clothes
school and life in general.
God listens, through all our wishes
and
complaining... patiently loving...
always loving.

We gain so much from this
God we worship.

Asking so much... yet...
giving so little.

Nita J.

Looking for a taxi in Sydney, Australia? Be sure to ask for Cumberland Cab Number 232. Its driver, David Hubbard, carries a Bible and tracts on his front seat to help travelers with spiritual needs. "I only drive a cab 13 hours a day, but I try to help people 24 hours a day." One young lady whom he counseled is now in college, training for the mission field. To encourage other drivers, Hubbard formed the Taxi Drivers Christian Association.

Simple things

It takes the simple things of life
To make my day complete.
A fresh baked pie, a shining floor,
A house all clean and neat.
Some kittens asleep on the window
sill,

The fragrance of the pines,
The lovely sight of a butterfly,
and pretty towels drying on the line.
To feel the gentle winds that blow
Like fingers through my hair
To watch the vulture circling high
In search of a rabbit's lair.
I love the quietness of the night
When all the world gets still
the presence of my Lord is near
And I know my cup is filled.

—Janice Mosley
Shubuta

The palm of his hand

As I struggle along from day to day
I am striving for things, but to my
dismay

They always seem to slip right
through my hands
and I ask God for help again and
again.

Then a small voice whispers, "My
child, be still.
What you are striving for is not in my
will."

Then I am ashamed; I have forgotten
again

That God always keeps me in the
palm of his hand.

Ruth Norsworthy Crager
State Line

Green Valley Mission

The little mission stood on a corner lot
Strong and stately and proud,
Its steeple pointing toward the sky.
Just waiting on the crowd.

It knew full well when the saints got there
They'd have a glorious time,
Praying and singing and praising the Lord.
Oh! What a joy sublime!

Unnoticed by many a passerby,
Not a mansion on a hill.
Just a tiny little churchhouse
In the center of God's will.

The little mission grew and grew and grew
'Til at last it was plain to see,
Its time had come—It had done its job.
Soon it would no longer be.

But it was not sad when it overheard
That plans were being made,
For it had been a stepping stone—
The foundation had already been laid.

It had left its mark far and near
On the people who passed this way,
Like a lighthouse on a stormy
sea,
Or the sun on a cloudy day.

The building soon will be torn away,
Replaced by brick and stone.
But in the hearts of the people,
The Mission will live on.

—Virginia Bagwell, Pontotoc
(Written a week before the constituting
service at Green Valley Mission.)

Crucial role of State paper cited by BSSB president

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A recent workshop with Southern Baptist state paper editors strengthened the conviction of the president of the Sunday School Board that state papers play a "dramatically significant" role in denominational life.

BSSB President Lloyd Elder said he convened the two-day workshop to share information about board programs as well as to conduct problem-solving sessions on communications strategies and revitalization of the denomination.

Calling the 25 state editors who attended "a group of tough-minded people," Elder said, "I see the state papers as crucial to the health of the denomination."

Elder said he believes the Southern Baptist Convention "is in a time of maturity when we must face the issues of uniqueness and change. The great crisis facing the denomination is primarily a crisis of change."

He called for a communication strategy to help Southern Baptists be aware of current change and help church members toward an increased knowledge of the convention's heritage.

"Some things in the Southern Baptist Convention must not change," Elder told the editors. "Other things ought to change. One of the greatest avenues for denominational renewal is communication. A role of communicators is to guide the denomina-

tion toward a renewed vitality by sharing information and trust."

W. C. Fields, associate executive secretary for public relations, SBC Executive Committee, said, "Communication does not always create unity, but good communication is essential to finding a basis for unity."

Fields said the role of the Sunday School Board should include continuous efforts to maintain credibility and openness. He urged board officials to seek a conscious partnership with state papers and support of the ministry of state papers.

At the same time, Fields said state paper editors should "seek authoritative answers to questions related to the Sunday School Board."

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

Mackinac Island

The last tour through the locks at Sault Ste. Marie was leaving at 6:30 p.m. We reached the eastern end of Lake Superior just in time to board the boat from the Canadian dock. Then as the last vestige of light faded from the day, we crossed the International Bridge. Forty-eight miles later and 48 miles tireder we gratefully sank into a motel bed at St. Ignace, Mich., on the Upper Peninsular end of the Mackinaw Bridge, "third longest suspension bridge in the world." W.D. and I had wanted to get to that point, to be ready to leave early next morning for Mackinac Island.

The island is on the Huron side of the Straits of Mackinac. It looks a bit like a big green turtle—and that's what the Indian name, Michilimackinac, means.

Of the three ferry services, we bought a ticket for the Star Line, and made the speedboat-like hydroplane trip in 18 minutes (round-trip, \$6.75). A regular ferryboat takes 45 minutes. Or if you'd rather fly, there's an air taxi that'll take you there in five minutes.

I've never been to Bermuda, but I've been told that the harbor looks a bit like British towns there. The clapboard mansions, as well as smaller houses, are Victorian, but without the gingerbread trim.

Mackinac Island scores a lot of points with me in the first place because no cars are allowed—only bicycles or horses. We squeezed through the crowd of day-trippers at the pier, some headed for bicycle rental places (at \$2 an hour) some rolling their own bikes off the boat. They could elect to ride the 8.2 mile trail around the island's perimeter or cut across the middle to a place called British Landing.

At the first corner I glimpsed the red-jacketed coachman picking up guests for the Grand Hotel. He was driving a closed carriage. And I knew he was from the hotel because the horses wore red plumes on their heads.

We paid our \$7 each and got into a carriage "with the fringe on top" to let the horses do the walking. The brochure said that Mackinac Island Carriage Tours have been in continuous operation since before the Civil War and that they have the largest working draft horse herd in the country—more than 250 of them. At Surrey Hill Square, a museum of antique livery equipment, we changed to a 35-passenger carriage pulled by three horses. (The first one had only two.)

Rest stop: Arch Rock. I'd been pretending all day I was on a Caribbean or Mediterranean cruise (either would be fine), but I had not expected this! A doughnut-like hole gaped in the edge of the rock cliff and we could look down through it to a narrow strip of rocky beach and to sunshine glistening on turquoise waves. (The rocks probably hurt sunbathers' backs.) For swimming, Lake Huron's waters are cold (I didn't try them), but clean and clear.

We clip-clopped past the old

Wawashkamo Golf Club, two cemeteries, and the governor of Michigan's summer home, and arrived at Fort Mackinac. The tea room at the fort on the bluff has a nice view of the harbor, but we decided to omit the tour of the fort. I read about it instead: The British built the fort; the U.S. obtained it by treaty at the close of the Revolutionary War. The British took it in the War of 1812. Again the U.S. got it by treaty. The island, once a national park, is now 85% state park. In the early 19th century, John Jacob Astor, millionaire, carried on a flourishing fur business there.

I guess I'd still be sitting on the front porch of the Grand Hotel if W.D. hadn't kept reminding me we had to go. It was a long way back to Mississippi. As the carriage neared the hotel, the wind brought the sun-warmed fragrance of snapdragons and roses to welcome us. We jumped off the still-moving conveyance and paid \$3 each just to walk through the hotel and its grounds—but that was the best sightseeing investment I ever made.

The white-framed, white-columned hotel is at the top of a steep hill and is visible far out on the lake. It opened July 10, 1887—was once the favorite vacation spot for the Chicago meat barons—and is as opulent now as it must have been then.

I went inside to see the brass railings along the staircase, and the wall-papered phone booths, and to walk on the thick carpets. I asked for a price list. A double (twin beds) at \$90 was the starting price. That included two meals per person. (18 percent would be added for service charge, as no tips are allowed.)

We walked the length of the 660-foot porch twice, "the world's longest hotel porch." Flowers always win my heart, and here I was absolutely smitten. All the way down that porch were pots of marigolds against the wall and pots of red geraniums along the front edge. Then on the ground the flowerbeds began (hollyhocks, larkspur, roses) next to the building. Flowering trees and shrubs continued down the slopes, past the long flights of wooden steps, to a strip of formal gardens beside a triangular swimming pool. A line of dark green fir trees separated the grounds from the blue water of the Straits of Mackinac.

On the porch we sat down in two big white rocking chairs, near a group of tables where people were eating lunch. I took a deep breath of that "mosquito-free, pollen-free, cleanest air on the continent" and all I wanted to do was lean back and rock for a month.

Only the promise of a visit to one of those fudge shops on the main street could have made me get up! We watched a man roll the candy out on a marble countertop—and bought chocolate, vanilla, maple, pistachio, strawberry. Star Line's captain blew a warning whistle. Time to go.

... Give glory unto the Lord, and declare his praise in the islands (Isaiah 42:12).

Preachers again lead list of needed missionaries

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—In a continuing strategy to start new churches overseas, Southern Baptist foreign missionaries are asking three-fourths of the new missionaries named during the next year be preachers and church developers.

Out of 589 of those most urgent requests this year, the missionaries are bidding for 449 seminary-trained people. They want 293 of them to be preachers.

The requests reflect a Foreign Mission Board emphasis on evangelism that results in churches, as part of Bold Mission Thrust—a plan to help reach everyone in the world with the gospel by the year 2000. They were outlined Sept. 13-14 in an annual meeting of Foreign Mission Board human resources and overseas office staffers.

Meeting participants stressed missionary candidates recommended for appointment need to be soul-winners. "They must have compassion for the lost," said Charles Bryan, senior vice-president for overseas operations. "If they don't have this, they're not going to be involved in our primary thrust."

Staffers also outlined priority needs for auxiliary personnel, including journeymen and volunteers. Journeymen are college graduates under age 27 commissioned for two-year assignments, mostly in support roles.

The overseas call for volunteers has grown the past few years. "Instead of having to try to convince missionaries to use volunteers, now they're asking, 'Where are they?'" said Ron Boswell, director of the volunteer enlistment department. The board is continuing partnership mission projects involving 17 states and 29 countries scattered throughout the world, he added.

Last year FMB area directors asked missionaries to pare requests to the most critical needs. Requests for new missionaries now call for only those who fit into a specific strategy for the area of the world to which they will be assigned.

About half of last year's total priority needs—and 55 percent of 1983 priority needs for seminary-trained people—are filled or are on hold for candidates anticipating appointment.

This year four area directors list preachers as their No. 1 need, and in one area all 15 priority needs are preachers. But missionaries also re-

quest new medical workers, agricultural evangelists, business-administrative people, student workers, and teachers.

One of the most unusual requests calls for a nurse/midwife in Europe and the Middle East. She would work in a hospital obstetrics unit and in the wards, supervising the nursing staff.

Requests from the Middle East also include a woman religious education consultant to work with Woman's Missionary Union, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School groups in Jordan; a general evangelist to work with Arabs in the northern Galilee region of Israel; and a publications worker for Mon-sourieh, Lebanon.

In Europe a general evangelist is needed for Spain.

Uruguay needs an itinerant preacher to organize and promote crusades and tent revivals in Montevideo, said Thurmon Bryant, director for eastern South America. Other needs include a New Testament professor and general evangelists for Brazil, a secretary with bookkeeping skills for Argentina and a hospital administrator for Paraguay.

Five preachers to start churches in five different nations are listed as the top priorities in western South America by area director Bryan Brasington. The only non-evangelist position is a religious education consultant to coordinate work with 20 Baptist churches in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

The top priority in South and Southeast Asia calls for a teacher in the Malaysian Baptist seminary. Also among priority concerns are physicians for Thailand and India, a couple to serve as hostel parents for missionary kids in Thailand and a camp director in the Philippines.

In East Asia a student evangelist for Taiwan is the first priority. Other student evangelists are requested for Hong Kong and South Korea. Japan

needs a field evangelist for Fukuoka City to help churches conduct surveys and start new churches, said George Hays, area director. Also identified as needs are a music consultant in Japan and religious education workers in Hong Kong and Japan.

Priority needs in eastern and southern Africa include an obstetrics-gynecology physician in Zimbabwe, a leadership worker in Angola and general evangelists in Namibia, Malawi, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda, Bophuthatswana and the Indian Ocean Islands.

In West Africa general evangelists accounted for six of the 15 top needs. The first priority calls for a general evangelist to develop a plan to reach people of varied socio-economic levels in the city of Bobo-Dioulasso, Bourkina Fasso (formerly Upper Volta). Such a person, said associate area director Betty Kay Abell, would need the ability to reach an entire city and change his strategies as the work develops.

Other needs include dentists for The Gambia and Benin, mission business managers/treasurers for Mali and Sierra Leone and a hospital administrator for Ghana. One very crucial need in Nigeria is for a business manager who would make travel arrangements—especially for sending and receiving volunteers from the United States—and keep missionaries informed about government regulations.

Ten of the 15 top requests from Middle America and the Caribbean ask for general evangelists. Others include a publications worker for El Salvador, a mass communications specialist who would produce and market Baptist programs for the Bahamas and the Caribbean, a dentist for Barbados and a seminary professor for Guatemala.

Marty Croll writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

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Homecomings

Stanley sees increased involvement with SBC

By Karen Benson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — An emotional intervention by God convinced Charles Stanley to become president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Now, "eye-opening" encounters with the evangelistic thrust at the heart of Southern Baptist agencies and programs are deepening his involvement with Southern Baptist causes.

Stanley, elected president of the 14.1-million member denomination last June, spent an hour and a half talking with members of the Southern Baptist Press Association Sept. 17 while attending his first meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

He told the group of editors of state Baptist newspapers and Baptist Press editors that he understood the concern of many people over the percentage his church gives to the SBC unified national budget (the Cooperative Program) of 2.1 percent and its support of non-Southern Baptist missionaries.

"I have challenged my budget committee to move our Cooperative Program giving to at least five percent next year and even higher if we can, and we are rethinking how our world missions conference involvement can be channeled."

He also promised the editors he would consult with the presidents and executive directors of the state conventions prior to making his committee appointments. Such appointments have become points of dispute in recent years in light of an announced attempt by inerrantists to take control of the boards of trustees of the convention's agencies and seminaries.

Stanley stressed he has no desire to "control anything or to run anything," claiming his election to head the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination was the will of God.

Stanley said it was only after God brought him to his knees and caused him to weep that he finally submitted to God's will to be nominated for president.

Stanley said the only reason he is president is "not out of choice, not by a coalition, but because I could not live with myself if I had not said, 'God, if you would like to publicly humiliate me to do something else in my life, that's fine. If you want me to be president of the Southern Baptist Convention, you'll have to arrange it because I've never lifted a finger in my life to be nominated for anything, go to any church, or to do anything.'"

Stanley believes "God has placed me here for a very specific reason." His one desire as president, "is to be obedient to God whatever his reason is for me. If he puts me here for one year, that will tickle me pink. If it's for two years, I will probably struggle with that — but if he requires it, and if he arranges that, then I'll have to be obedient."

Stanley said he is convinced there has been a lot of "misunderstanding of motivation" and "misunderstanding of methods" on both sides. If leaders of both theological groups

would "talk soberly" about the principles involved and eliminate personalities totally, much could be done to smooth out trouble spots within the denomination, Stanley said. "I believe there is enough godly wisdom in the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention that we can find God's solution to the problems."

"I must believe that God is great enough, that he has not invested all this energy, time, money, know-how, organization, into the Southern Baptist life to watch us go by the wayside when we have the greatest opportunity of any denomination that has ever existed in human history to impact this nation and the world," Stanley said. "I've got to believe God has brought us all to this point in a time of strife and cloudiness and storm, not to disintegrate, not to divide, but to act like godly men and women to discover God's solution to the problem and get on with doing what God called us to do."

Stanley has been "deeply encouraged" by visits he has made to SBC agencies and institutions in recent months, particularly a visit several weeks ago with SBC Foreign Mission Board personnel. "This emphasis on evangelism is a vital point of view that needs to be conveyed to most Southern Baptists," he said. He challenged more pastors to consider leaving the pastorate to go to the mission field and urged the Southern Baptist Press Association to distribute a one-page report to pastors on a frequent basis that would provide testimonies to the work being done by Southern Baptist missionaries and which would offer some statistics about mission work.

Stanley also answered charges his church has not adequately supported the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist fund which supports SBC agencies and institutions. "I've realized our Cooperative Program giving has been low. But churches have different roles. Most Southern Baptist churches have their only mission outlet, really, through the Cooperative Program. In a large, downtown church like ours, we have many avenues of missions. Likewise God has called us to have a nationwide television ministry all across this land, now into foreign countries. That has cost us millions of dollars. But it's beginning to pay off in the thousands of people being saved every month."

"I would say many of these people are joining Southern Baptist churches because they know I'm a Southern Baptist. So God has given our church a different role. That doesn't make us better or less than anyone else. I'm simply saying we have a different role than other churches. So that's the reason, or one of the primary reasons, we are giving 2.1 percent."

First Baptist Church of Atlanta has done "what we believe God would have us to do, up to this point," Stanley said. "Now, as I said to our folks, I want to be very, very careful that I examine very honestly my motivation, because I do not want to raise

our Cooperative Program giving but for one basic reason, that is a conviction on my part and a conviction on the part of our people that we need to do it because we need to be more involved in that aspect of our missionary giving."

Stanley was quizzed about his lack of involvement in SBC life prior to his election as president.

"We have to allow that all of us are not going to feel the same about this," Stanley responded. "I can understand why you would perceive of me being a disloyal Southern Baptist, if that's what you're saying. But I can tell you that I'm not. I wouldn't be anything else today but a Southern Baptist. I made a choice to be a Southern Baptist. I was not born one. None of my family was one. I was the first one out of my family to become a Southern Baptist. And so, while there is diversity in opinion concerning doctrine, then I think we have to allow for God to use different men in different ways in the roles he has called them for, and that means he may not call all of us to be as intricately involved all the time."

Stanley was also asked if he will be a "tool for the inerrancy camp to stack the boards" when making appointments to the SBC Committee on Committees. The Committee on Committees nominates the Committee on Boards which in turn, nominates the board members and trustees for all SBC agencies and committees.

Said Stanley, "I'm sure a lot of inerrantists vote for me, but they're not the only ones who voted for me. I'm not committed to anybody, as best I know, but God. I want to be obedient to him, and I'm going to be as honest and as open as I know to be. When the time comes, I'm going to seek godly counsel, and I want to make wise judgments, so they'll not be made quickly."

Stanley also explained his involvement in the American Coalition for Traditional Values, a new political organization organized by conservative author Tim LaHaye which claims to be non-partisan. Stanley said he originally was unaware that his name was included in a list of religious leaders named to the board of directors of the ACTV.

After talking with LaHaye about the matter, Stanley said he agreed to leave his name on the list because of his interest in getting people involved in the political process. He said he agrees with at least nine of the 10 goals of the organization, but has yet to firmly make up his mind on the issue of government funding for religious schools.

The ACTV has adopted a position supporting government aid to parochial schools, a stand contrary to the traditional stance of Southern Baptists. "That's the one area that I probably have a little problem with," Stanley said. "The rest of them (goals) I don't have a problem with, and so I just sort of have to overlook it."

Karen Benson is on the public relations staff at Baylor University.

130th anniversary

Shady Grove (Lincoln): 130th year homecoming, Oct. 14; Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; worship service at 11 with Jerry Bishop, a former pastor, preaching; dinner on the ground; ground breaking ceremonies for a new parsonage; music program in the afternoon; Charlie Seale, pastor.

40th year

Oak Grove (Holmes): 40th annual homecoming; Oct. 14; worship service at 11 a.m., with Walter Hines, former pastor, preaching; dinner on the ground; Gage Hynum, pastor.

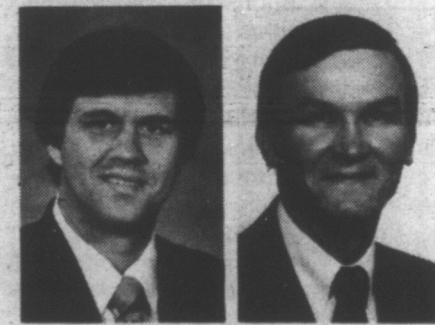
Yockanookany Church (Attala): homecoming; Oct. 14; lunch at the church; Joe Blackwell, former pastor, will deliver the afternoon message; Herbert Eichelberger, pastor.

Mt. Vernon (Leflore): homecoming; Oct. 14; worship service, 11 a.m.; J. P. Hollingworth, former pastor, will deliver the morning message; lunch at the church; special singing in the afternoon; Allen Robison, pastor.

New Hope (Lawrence): homecoming; Oct. 14; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; worship at 11 a.m., with Joe Butler bringing the message; lunch in the fellowship hall; afternoon music service; Mike Staton, pastor.

Calvary Church, Braxton (Simpson): homecoming; Oct. 14; Sunday School, 9:50 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; Vance Dyess, former pastor, will deliver the morning message; lunch at the church; singing in the afternoon directed by music director Pete Simon; Henry J. Bennett, pastor.

Youth ministry seminar to be at Tiak-O'Khata



Kirkland

Ross

A youth ministry seminar Oct. 15 and 16 at Lake Tiak-O'Khata near Louisville will be sponsored by the youth work committee and the Church Administration department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Richard Ross, consultant in the Church Administration Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board and Ron Kirkland, administrator at Clarke College in Newton, will be the featured speakers.

The seminar will begin at 1 p.m. on Monday and conclude at 1 p.m. on Tuesday.

Reservations may be made through the Church Training Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Mt. Zion (Simpson): Oct. 14; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; worship 11 a.m.; lunch in the fellowship hall; afternoon service at 1:30; Robert Sones, pastor.

Briarwood Church, Meridian: homecoming Oct. 21; worship service at 10:45 a.m.; dinner served immediately following the worship service; music program in the afternoon; Thomas J. Wood, pastor.

Clear Branch (Rankin): Oct. 14; Sunday School at 10; Barney Walker of Jackson, preaching at the 11 a.m. service; lunch on the grounds; singing in the afternoon; Don Degarmo, pastor.

Eastside, Pearl: homecoming; Oct. 14; dinner on the grounds; special singing after lunch; Howard Benton, pastor.

Holly Springs (Marion): homecoming Oct. 14; Bobby Speights, former pastor, speaker; services 11 a.m. with dinner in fellowship hall and afternoon singing with special groups at 1:30.

Revival Dates

Ebenezer (Holmes): Oct. 14-19; Sun. 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; evangelist Leonard Lerner and his evangelistic singers from McKinney, Texas, will be leading; M. L. Frost, pastor.

First, State Line: Oct. 19-21; Fri. and Sat. at 7 p.m.; Sun. at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Daniel H. Holcomb, professor, New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Wayne Rogers, directing the music; Danny W. Rogers, pastor.

Webb (Tallahatchie): Oct. 14-17; Gary Berry, pastor, First Church, Batesville, evangelist; Hubert Greer, music evangelist, Brookhaven, music director; Margaret Ann Moore, organist; Jane Holton, Leesville, La., pianist; M. Lee Ferrell, pastor.

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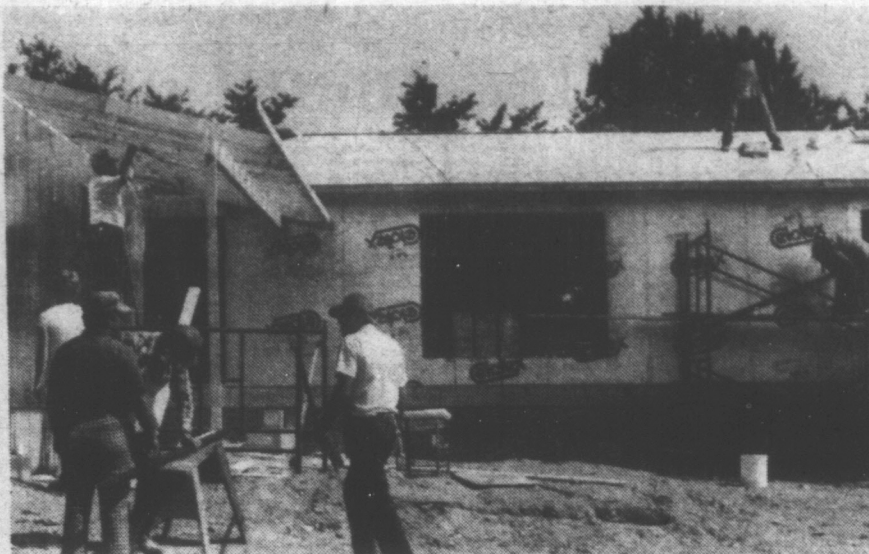
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These were among the 34 northwest Mississippians who went to Ohio to build a house and lead in revival meetings recently.



Men from Northwest Association in Mississippi (Erwin Brown, director of missions) build a home for the manager of Seneca Lake Baptist Assembly in Ohio.

Northwest team builds house in Ohio

Thirty-four volunteer workers from Northwest Association in Mississippi helped construct a new home for the supervisor of Seneca Lake Assembly, Ohio's version of Gulfshore.

The group was led by Erwin Brown, director of missions, Northwest Association, based in Hernando. Brown and his wife, Ruth, were one of six married couples in the group.

Many different occupations were represented in the visitors. Housewife, school teacher, air traffic controller, pastor, minister of music, attorney, secretary, retiree, shipping clerk, carpenter, electrician, truck driver, sales employee.

Henry Williams, age 83, worked every day and attended every ser-

vice at night. The six pastors in the group conducted two weekend revivals, at Port Washington and at New Concord nearby. They were Ed Campbell, Tom Hood, Aaron Lewis, Jim Rosenkrans, Billy Joe Selby, and Brown.

They and the laymen also participated in church activities at Cambridge, Dover, Barnesville, and Woodsville. Gary Coad, layman, performed as a clown at an associational youth rally.

"We arrived home about 3 a.m. Saturday, tired but excited by the opportunity to come and share in this special project," Brown said. The team had previously been to New Jersey, New Mexico, Michigan, Montana, and Wyoming.

Tonkel, Taylor to lead hospital religious ... week

Religious Emphasis Week at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center sponsored by the hospital's BSU group, will be highlighted on Thursday, Oct. 18, and Friday, Oct. 19. Keith Tonkel, pastor at Wells Memorial Methodist Church in Jackson, will speak on those dates at 11:30 a.m. in John Busey Auditorium.

Sarah Taylor, whose husband is pastor at Arlington Heights Baptist Church in Pascagoula, will sing a solo at the beginning of each program.

The students will visit Rice Acres on October 15 for a time of sharing and spiritual preparation for the



Tonkel



Taylor

week.

The co-chairmen of the Religious Emphasis Week are Deleslynn Lentz Barlow, a medical technology student, and Laurie Bennett, a radiography student, at MBMC's allied health schools.

First Azores pastor ordained

PONTA DELGADA. The Azores — Azorean Baptists have ordained their first Azorean pastor. He is Samuel de Almeida Andrade, 40, the new pastor of the Baptist Church of Ponta Delgada, where he has been a member for the past six years.

The new pastor was born on Sao Miguel Island of Christian parents, who were then members of the Plymouth Brethren Church. He accepted Christ at the age of 12.

While serving in the Portuguese army on the continent, Andrade became interested in Baptists and attended services in Lisbon, Porto, and other locations near his assignments.

In 1978, when Missionary Elton Rangel of the Brazilian Baptist Foreign Mission Board arrived on the island to begin the church. Andrade sought him out and was baptized by Pastor Rangel.

Anti-gambling leaders plan national strategy

By David Wilkinson

WASHINGTON (BP) — Anti-gambling activists from 13 states and the District of Columbia formulated strategy for nationwide opposition to the spread of legalized gambling during a two-day conference in the nation's capital.

Larry Braidfoot of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission told participants the threat of "a major advance" by gambling interests required "new vigilance at the national level" by opponents of legalized gambling.

The conference, sponsored by the Christian Life Commission as a follow-up to a consultation on gambling held last year in Nashville, Tenn., brought together representatives of different denominational offices and anti-gambling organizations.

Speakers included a Connecticut prosecutor with extensive experience in investigations of illegal gambling and a sociologist who has studied the socio-economic impact of state-sponsored lottery.

Formation of Southern Baptist relationships with anti-gambling groups has become "essential," according to Braidfoot, because of the national strategy of gambling proponents.

Braidfoot has led Southern Baptist opposition to federal legislation sponsored by Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.) and three other lawmakers from Nevada. The Senate and House

bills, dubbed by a Senate aide as the "Nevada Relief Bill," would amend existing legislation to allow casinos and state-sponsored lotteries to advertise across state lines, even in states which now prohibit such gambling activities.

"The financing of a casino and of racetracks with tax shelters and tax-exempt industrial bonds is bad enough," Braidfoot said, but the Laxalt legislation "would be catastrophic."

Sociologist Mark Abrahamson of the University of Connecticut described the results of an intensive study of that state's lottery. The research, he said, found the lottery — particularly the daily numbers game — to be a regressive form of taxation that exploited the poor and ethnic minorities.

David Wilkinson is on the staff of the Christian Life Commission.

MasterLife in November

A MasterLife Workshop will be conducted Nov. 26 to 30 in the Baptist Building in Jackson, sponsored by the Church Training Department. Persons wishing to register should do so by Nov. 12 and send \$75 to the Church Training Department as a registration fee.

Mississippi Baptist activities

Oct. 19-20 Church Library/Media Conference; Baptist Building; Noon, 19th-noon, 20th (SS)

BSU center at State is expanded

A dedication service and open house will mark the beginning of use of the expanded and renovated Baptist Student Center at Mississippi State University, Starkville. The dedication service will be Oct. 13, and the open house will be Oct. 14.

A buffet dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. will precede the dedication service. The dinner is by reservation only and will be \$3.75. The phone number is 323-5761.

The open house will be on Sunday afternoon from 2:30 to 4:30.

The events will be sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the Baptist Student Union at Mississippi State University. Jerry Merriman is director of student work for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Ken Watkins is BSU director at Mississippi State University.

Nepalese Christians are harassed

KATHMANDU, NEPAL (EP)—Increased opposition and harassment of Christians has been reported in the largely Hindu kingdom of Nepal because of the apparently slow, but steady growth of the small Christian minority.

Last May, during a month-long Bible school in Dandeldhura, all of the teachers and students were called in by the police and registered according to a report from the Missionary News Service. Three days later, 11 of the Christians were taken into custody by the police, and a week later three more were arrested.

Although Nepal subscribes to the United Nations Charter on Human Rights which guarantees religious liberty, one report indicates that since 1970 there have been more than 50 cases of police harassment, arrests and imprisonments of Christians.

Currently there are about 15,000 Christians in Nepal.

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Executive Committee members, staff pledge increased giving

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Planned Growth In Giving, an effort to change giving patterns across the 15 million member Southern Baptist Convention, has gotten a boost from the convention's Executive Committee.

During the September meeting of the committee a special service was held where each of the 68 elected members of the committee and the eight professional staff members were asked to sign cards which stated they had prayed about how much of their income they should give to their local churches and had set a plan to reach that level in increments over the next 15 years.

Three men — Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee; T. T. Crabtree, pastor of First Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo., and chairman of the Planned Growth in Giving task force; and Dewey Presley, layman from Dallas and chairman of the Executive Committee — gave stewardship testimonies before the pledge cards were taken up.

All three stressed the difficulty of

publicly talking about the very private subject of giving to the church — but all agreed they were doing so because of a strong conviction in what Planned Growth In Giving could mean to the evangelistic efforts of the SBC.

Bennett said he and his wife, Phyllis, had agreed to increase their giving by one-half-of-one percent each year for the next 15 years in addition to the "more than 10 percent" they currently give through First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn.

Crabtree, charged "Baptists are big fools without being aware of it — we are rich in the things of this world and poor toward God." He said the traditional tithe of 10 percent (the SBC average is less than three percent), "is not the ceiling — it is only the first step in overcoming our greed and allowing us to enjoy life at its highest level."

"People need to be saved from the idolatry of materialism," he said. He said Christians resemble God, "not when we go to church or bow to pray but when we give ourselves without reservations. He said he and his wife

will "move toward" giving one-fourth of their gross income and one-third of their taxable income to their SBC church.

Presley said his wife, Virginia, taught him stewardship — even mailing their tithe checks back to the Baptist General Convention of Texas during World War II when they did not live close to an SBC church. They will increase their "undesignated" giving by one-half-of-one percent each year "I'm about to retire and for you young guys who are thinking I won't make it 15 years — we have made provisions in our estate plans to amply fulfill this commitment."

If PGG is successful giving through SBC churches will reach \$20 billion a year by 2000 AD.

MC to offer adult ed course religious journalism

"Religious Journalism" will be offered by Mississippi College this fall as part of its Programs for Adult Community Enrichment (PACE) series, and those interested should pre-register by Friday, Oct. 19.

The course is designed for those who wish to write for the denominational and religious press and will feature instruction in writing first-person stories, short stories, features, and devotional articles.

Instructor for the course will be Kevin Jones, religion editor of the Jackson Daily News and former editor of the Itawamba County Times in Fulton.

The course will meet on Tuesday evenings, beginning Oct. 30 and concluding Nov. 27. Each session will last from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost of the course will be \$30.

Parkway honors Buckley on tenth year

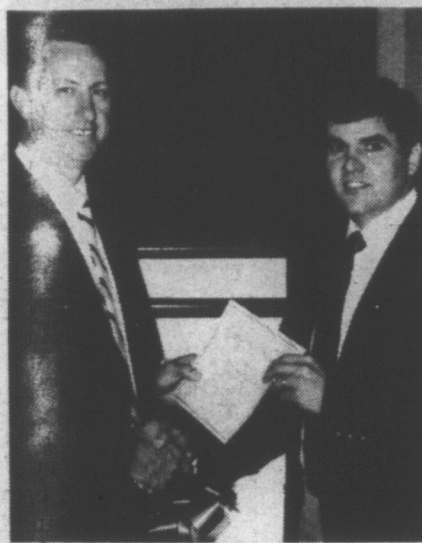
Parkway Natchez, recently honored Gerald P. Buckley on his tenth anniversary as pastor of the church. The Buckleys and their sons, Steve and Stan, were recognized during the morning service and given a reception during the afternoon.

A native of Hattiesburg, Buckley is a graduate of Mississippi College, and Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. He is married to the former Billie Jean Yelverton of Laurel.

Before going to Natchez, he served as pastor of West Heights Church, Pontotoc, for nine years. He also served as pastor of First, Madden, and Piney Grove at Gretna, Virginia, and as associate pastor of First Church, Canton, N.C.

Well over 1,500 persons have joined Parkway during his pastorate and the operating budget has more than doubled. An annual youth choir tour involves over 80 young people, and an annual "junior camp" has had over 100 elementary school age children participating.

Names in the News



PHIL WORLEY, right, was recently ordained as a deacon of Gaston Church, near Booneville. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelvin Worley. Milton Koon, pastor, left, presented the ordination certificate.

Mark Edward Gibson, minister of music and youth of First Church, Lexington, on Sept. 16, was ordained



Gibson

to the gospel ministry. The ordination message was by his father, James Gibson, pastor of Macedonia Church, Neshoba County. Mark Gibson is a student at New Orleans Seminary and will graduate in December with a master's degree in church music. He plans to serve then as full-time minister of music and youth at First Church, Lexington. The pastor of First Church is Michael O'Brien.

BERLIN, GERMANY (EP)—The General Council of the Baptist World Alliance at its annual meeting, July 27-29, nominated G. Noel Vose of Australia to serve as president of the Baptist World Alliance for the 1985-1990 term. Vose is the principal of Baptist Theological College, Perth, Western Australia. Mrs. Christine Gregory, Danville, Va., a Southern Baptist lay leader, was nominated first vice president of the BWA Council.

Poplar Springs roofing offering sets a record

Poplar Springs Church (Newton County) recently had its largest single day offering in the church's history. Poplar Springs was established in 1846 and is the second oldest Baptist church in the county.

On Sept. 30, the church gave a Roofing Fund Day offering of \$2,900.30. "This is quite remarkable in light of the fact that our budget is only around \$18,000 yearly and we already had to make up about \$2,500 or more for non-budgeted repairs of the building earlier in the year," said F. David Rives, pastor.

Sunday School enrollment and attendance saw a 46 percent increase from Oct. 1, 1983, to Sept. 30, 1984. It jumped from 46 to 67. Attendance Sept. 30 was 58 of 67, or 86.5 percent. Ten have been baptized since Jan. 1, 1984.



DWIGHT MASSENGILL, right, pastor of Oak Hill Church, Prentiss Association; Harvey Reeves, pastor of Casey Creek Church, Prentiss, and Mike Johnson, pastor of Peoples Church, Tippah Association, recently spent a week preaching and ministering in Powhatan Point and Steubenville, Ohio. As a result, there were five professions of faith.

Sarah Willey Young, on Sept. 30 completed 25 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. She is a Sunday School teacher and pianist at New Hope Church in Leake Association. Her husband, Jimmy, is pastor.



Young

Parker Chancellor, pastor of Souenlovie Church in Clarke Association, has been honored by the church for 12 years of service. The church gave him an expense-paid vacation to the Ozarks and tickets to the Passion Play at Eureka Springs, Ark.

Four young men from Mississippi have been selected as Outstanding Young Men of America in 1984, in recognition of outstanding civic and professional contribution to their communities, state, and nation. They are Kenneth L. Anderson, Vaughan, pastor of Black Jack Church, Yazoo County; R. Michael Ethridge, student at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Mark Hawkins, student at New Orleans Seminary; and Ronald David Logan of Jackson.

Available

James F. Smith, former pastor of Rock Hill Church in Rankin Association, is available for revivals, Bible conferences, interim or supply work, or another pastorate. His address is 119 Richland St., Richland, Miss. 39218; phone 932-4578.

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Staff Changes

Wayne Crenshaw has resigned as pastor of Liberty Church, Flowood, after serving there for six years. He is available to serve as supply or interim, and may be contacted in Jackson at 992-1153 or 373-3556, 3333 Rosemary Drive, Jackson, MS 39212.

Marc Eichelberger has accepted the call of First Church, Nicholson, as pastor. He is a recent graduate of New Orleans Seminary and is continuing to study at William Carey College. The Eichelberger family members are all natives of LaGrange, Ga.

First, Moss Point, has called Newt Hendrix as minister of music. He is a student at New Orleans Seminary.

James A. Walker has been called as pastor at Pheba Church in Clay County. He and his wife, Earlene, and their family have moved to the church field.



Guthrie

Danny Guthrie has accepted the call as minister of music at Calvary Church, Belzoni. He and his wife are long-time residents of Belzoni. Robert C. Ragland is pastor.

The Executive Committee of the Gulf Coast Association has extended call to Vinh Quoc Vo as pastor of the Vietnamese Mission. He will work with churches in Biloxi, Gulfport, and Long Beach to develop ministries for Vietnamese people. Vo is a student at New Orleans Baptist Seminary.

Ricky Crowder is the new minister of music and youth at Community Church, Lowndes County.

Bobby Parish has resigned as pastor at Center Grove (Oktibbeha).

Faith Church (Oktibbeha) has called John Crooks as minister of education.

Ernest "Pete" Newsome has accepted the pastorate of Waxhaw Church in Bolivar Association.

Jack Cross has resigned as pastor of Edgefield and Harmony churches (Attala) to accept New Bethel Church, Neshoba Association.

Ricky McKay has accepted the pastorate of Valley Hill Church, Carroll County. He has moved there from the pastorate of Standing Pine Church, Leake County.

Terry Faulkner is the new pastor at Oak Hill, Pontotoc County.

Bill Harden, new pastor at Springville (Pontotoc), was ordained Sept. 23.

Sylvarena, Copeh County, has called as pastor Donald Payne.

New Zion, Copeh County, has called Emery May as pastor.

Gum Grove (Lincoln) pastor, Jimmie Smith, has resigned to move to Sheridan, Wyoming, to begin a new church.

Grace Memorial, Gulfport, has called Bill Wade as minister of education and youth.

Grady Cothen to speak at MC

Grady Cothen will speak at Mississippi College chapel on Oct. 15, 16, and 17 at 10 a.m., as a part of the Spell Lectureship Series. The public is invited, said Jack Glaze, head of the Department of Religion at the college.

Cothen is retired president of the Baptist Sunday School Board SBC, and is a Mississippian. For further information, call 924-5131, ext. 218.

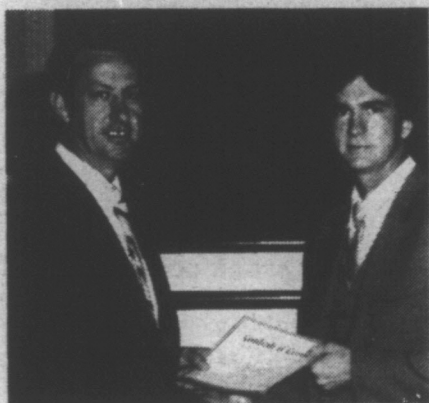
Missionary News

Robert and Sherry Sims, missionaries to Ghana, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 400, Accra, Ghana). He is a native of Flomaton, Ala., and she is the former Sherry McCraw of Jackson, Miss.

Fredrick and Deborah Davis, missionaries to Japan, have a change of address (83 Onishi Terrace, Kitanakagusuku Son, Okinawa 901-23, Japan). She was born in Laurel.

Wayne and Florence Frederick, missionaries to the French West Indies, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: 201 Lotissement, Point D'Or Abymes, Guadeloupe). He was born near Shannon, Miss. She was born in New Orleans, La., and lived there and in Edwards, Miss., while growing up.

Licensed to preach



MIKE HATFIELD, right, was recently licensed to preach by Gaston Church, near Booneville. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Hatfield, and a student at Blue Mountain College. He may be reached for supply work by calling 728-8363. The pastor, Milton Koon, left, presented the license.

Service in deaf ministry

T. H. Barron, a deacon of First Church, Pascagoula, is given the "Talking Hands" pin by Richard Alford, director of language missions for Mississippi Baptists. Barron is deaf. The pin was awarded in recognition of Barron's service in the deaf ministry that is carried on by First Church. The church has observed its 10th anniversary of a reactivated deaf ministry. Dennis Johnsey is pastor.

Devotional The day of execution

By Alan Kilgore, pastor, Oakdale, Brandon
Mark 15:6-13



Now it was the custom at the feast to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked

Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

"Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, knowing it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him.

But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

"What shall I do, then, with the one you call the King of the Jews?" Pilate asked them.

"Crucify him!" they shouted.

There's a story of three men in prison who had each been convicted of a crime that carried with it the death sentence. These three men were being held in the same prison cell awaiting execution that day. They reasoned together that perhaps if they would band together and fight the guards that they might be able to overcome them and escape. After their planning had been completed, and their confidence built up, they readied themselves for this life or death encounter. The door to the cell rattled open and the fight began, but the guard overcame them and took the first prisoner out for execution.

Now there were two left and again they plotted their escape. They came to the conclusion that they had not fought as hard as they were capable of or else they would now be free men. The next time the guards came they would try even harder to overcome them and escape death. The door to the cell again rattled and in walked the guards and again the fight began. This time the prisoners fought till they were both exhausted, but finally the guards prevailed and a second prisoner was taken out for execution.

Now there was only one prisoner left. It was his life that was at stake. He decided that no matter how strong the guards would be, he would have to be stronger. If the guards prevailed this time it would be his life that would be taken. He was to be executed because he had murdered someone. The fact that he had killed someone didn't bother him, but to know that someone was about to kill him bothered him a great deal. Life was sweet to him and he wanted to go on enjoying it.

The footsteps could be heard coming down the hall. He braced himself for the fight. The cell door began to open and the prisoner with a chair in hand was about to strike the guard when he heard him say, "You're free to go, Barabbas. Jesus is going to die in your place!"

Barabbas knew what it was like to be physically freed from the consequences of his crimes. As Christians we realize the joy of being spiritually freed from the consequences of our sins because of Jesus' willingness to die in our place.

Drama will depict 65 years of Pontotoc County Association

An historical pageant, "Like A Watered Garden," will be presented Friday, Oct. 26, at First Church, Pontotoc, at the afternoon session of the Pontotoc County fall associational meeting.

The pageant, written by Callie Young, will begin at 1:30 p.m. and last about 1-1/2 hours. Through music, readers, drama, and slides, the 65-year history of Pontotoc County Baptist Association will be highlighted. More than 100 adults and 50 children will participate. Some of

the adults in the cast live outside the county and will be special guests of First Baptist Church for the noon meal.

Program personalities will include Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; J. C. Mitchell, director of missions, Lowndes County; H. G. West Jr., director of Missions, Mississippi County, Arkansas; and many from Pontotoc County. Family members — sons, grandsons, nephews, whenever possible — will be used to portray early church members who figured significantly in Pontotoc County Baptist history. Every church in the association will be included in the presentation.

The pageant will include miniscenes from the last meeting of the three associations where Pontotoc churches were originally members; the organizational meeting on November 5, 1919; the twenty-fifth anniversary in 1944; the fiftieth anniversary meeting in 1969; and a present day scene with emphasis on mission. In addition, between scenes, features will include a Day Camp scene, R.A. boys getting ready to go to camp, the portable traveling library, and a mini-G.A. Coronation scene.



Thursday, October 11, 1984

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GAs OF FIRST, RIDGELAND were recognized in a service on Sept. 26. Left to right, beginning on bottom row: Christy McKenzie, Candace Kelly, Loren Tillman, Heather Norris, Barbara Avery, Kay Keith, Karen Rhinewalt, Tracy McKenzie, Shannon Thomas, and Jennifer Kelly. Leaders were Mrs. Brenda Keith, Mrs. Danette Fant, Mrs. Doris Langham, GA director, Mrs. Brenda McKenzie, and Mrs. Diane Kolb. Ed Griffin is pastor.



ORA CHURCH, COLLINS, used "His Way . . . Mine" as the theme for a GA recognition service. Five GAs received badges for completion of activities. Above, left to right, are Stacy Shoemaker; Ty Lynn Kelly; Angela Broadus; Sylvia Kelly, leader; Shelby Magee, Acteen; Lisa Mooney; and Misty Suchy.

The Baptist Student Union of Jones County Junior College recently observed Spiritual Emphasis Days. Steve Smith, a recent graduate of New Orleans Seminary and former evangelism chairman of Jones BSU, was the evangelist. Former and present members sang, gave testimonies, and made reports about mission work this summer. Smith also conducted a witnessing seminar on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon with an average attendance at 15. John F. Sumner, Jr. is BSU director at Jones Junior College.

**"Celebrating Baptist Identity;
Will the Real Southern Baptists Please Stand Up!"**
The St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church
invites you to come to
New Orleans, Nov. 2, 3, and 4
and celebrate our Southern Baptist Heritage
and make plans to safeguard it for the future.

SPEAKERS:

- ... on our heritage
Dr. Glenn Hilburn, Baylor University
- ... on the Bible
Dr. Frank Stagg, Southern Seminary
- ... on the role of the local church in SBC life
Dr. Bill Sherman, Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville

For more information, write or call

St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church 7100 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118 (504) 861-9514

There will be no charge for the conference.

God's promise of hope

By Vernon L. Sikes, Yazoo City
Micah 4:1-7:20

Trouble sometimes seems to come all bunched up. The newspapers report daily of some new governmental official discovered to be involved in illegal dealings. We hear of corruption from all areas, and we look around and wonder if there is but one good person left. "Is there no one whom we can trust?" we desperately ask.

Micah found himself in much the same situation as he cried that "the godly man has perished from the earth, and there is none upright among men" (7:2). Such was his frame of mind in chapters 1-3, but with chapter 4, one can see a definite shift of attitude which accounts for the consensus that Micah did not author the majority of the last four chapters.

I. Hope for Jerusalem (chapter 4)

Hopelessness had marked the close of the previous chapter as Micah proclaimed that "... Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins ..." (3:12). But suddenly, a note of assurance surfaced: "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it" (4:1). After God's judgment against the Hebrews, there would be hope and restoration.

For a moment, God's children were to "be in pain ... like a woman

in travail" (v.10), but it was in that agony that they would come to the place that they could receive redemption.

Other nations gloated over Jerusalem's imminent downfall (v.11) but little did they realize that the Lord had a plan that would turn the tables. In his time, he would "... gather them as sheaves into the floor" (v.12) and the Hebrews would "arise and thresh" (v.13) their enemies.

II. The coming Messiah (chapter 5)

In the midst of the Assyrian siege, Micah spoke of a deliverer who would come as did David of old, from Bethlehem. "... Out of thee shall he come forth unto me (i.e. God) that is to be ruler in Israel ..." (v.2). There would be a Savior, not born in the capital where the nobles oppressed them, but born among the people as a sharer of their toils.

Micah gave a glimpse of what this Messianic peace will be like: "And this man shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come ..." (v.5). Even the Assyrians will be kept at bay. Armies will no longer be needed (v.10). Defenses will no longer be necessary (v.11). The occult will be destroyed (v.12). Heathen worship will be no more (vv.13-15).

III. What God requires of his people (chapter 6)

The years caused us to forget so easily. God leads us through crisis after crisis and before long, we too

quickly forget his guidance.

Such was God's case against his people. They had forgotten their slavery in Egypt (v.4) and the Balaam episode (Num. 22-24). God had changed bad situations into blessings. How could the Hebrews make up for what they had done? Would sacrifices do it? Not by a long shot!

Verse 8 gives us the essence of true worship; God accepts no substitute: "... Do justice, and ... love kindness, and ... walk humbly with your God."

IV. Light in a dark world (chapter 7)

Micah despaired over the breakdown of society in his country. There was a stench that had begun at the governmental level and had permeated the entire nation. Friendship and family counted for nothing.

Even though all around him was darkness, Micah announced that "the Lord shall be a light ..." (v.8). God can be relied on though so-called friends and even family fall away. Though Israel was to endure a terrible destruction (v.13), God would build again, continue in his love for his people, and bless them again.

God is constant throughout eternity. He has repeatedly judged violators of his steadfast law in stern ways. As we examine our society, perhaps we can see some parallels, or perhaps we are as those of whom Micah spoke in chapter 2 and we simply reply, "Don't say such things. Don't harp on things like that" (2:6).

We have God's Spirit

By Charles E. Myers, Jackson
Romans 8:1-30

The eighth chapter of Romans, one of the greatest chapters in the Bible, is an interlude in the midst of this letter. The chapters before this have described the need for and way of salvation. The chapters following deal with Israel's rejection and the remnant to be saved, with the last five chapters containing the practical part of the letter. This eighth chapter deals with the blessing of those who have been saved, who are justified through faith. In these first thirty verses Paul lists four great blessings.

The first of these, found in verses 1-11, is a new liberty. God's spirit has made us free from the law of sin and death: We are no longer in bondage to Satan, compelled to live the life of sin. Instead we have in us the Spirit of Christ which calls us to a higher level of living. And if we continue to live on the low level of sin, following the lusts of the flesh, it is an indication we are not Christians and have not the Spirit of God. The salvation experience frees us from slavery to sin and provides us the Spirit of God who enables us to live a richer spiritual life in Christ. That's why Paul could say he was no longer debtor to the flesh and neither are we if we really know Christ as Savior.

The second blessing, found in verses 12-17, is a new relationship. We have become children of God. God's spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are his children. Paul says we have not entered into a new bondage of fear like our old life of bondage to Satan. Instead we have been adopted into the family of God and have become joint heirs with Christ to all of God's glorious possession. We are not pagans trying to pacify a pagan deity. Rather we have become children of God and we seek to express our love to him in all that we are and do. Like children, we are free to live our lives. And yet our relationship to the Father prompts us to live right. After all, children of the king should live in such a fashion that people will recognize who they are. People who do not have the desire to live right are apparently not really children of God. This new relationship is easily apparent in the way we live.

The third blessing is a new hope and is described in verses 18-25. Life in the flesh is cured with all kinds of infirmities and sufferings. Even the most fortunate person has to endure physical and emotional suffering, and some people are forced to endure terrible sufferings. And added to that is the hopelessness of the situation. Whatever we do, the end is death. The condition has caused many persons to curse their fate and question all of life. Their groanings become a part of the whole creation groaning under

good pleasure." The Holy Spirit abides in the believer, and he is never more pleased than when we are working out that which he has worked in. God and the Christian make up a team that all the forces of evil cannot overthrow. But remember, while God has assumed the responsibility for the inworking, we are responsible for the outworking.

the burden of sin. But the Christian has been given a new hope, a hope as bright as the promises of God. That hope gives him an assurance that God will provide an entirely redeemed world where those who are his shall live forever in perfect peace. And in patience they wait for him to fulfill that hope. No wonder it has been called a "blessed hope."

The fourth blessing is a new assurance and is found in verses 26-30. This is one of the richest of all God's blessings. Paul says the Spirit of God prays for us. He who can see our life from beginning to end, who knows all our weaknesses and our strengths, who knows our wants and our needs prays for us. And he prays for us according to the will of God. What a blessing! In the light of this we have the assurance that all of life; the good, the bad, the bitter, the sweet, the fair, the unfair, will be used for our ultimate good. This is so because God works according to an overall purpose begun before creation to be concluded at the end of time. This purpose is redemptive in nature and involves the whole universe and all within it.

The world is not just running along haphazardly. Nor are people just existing without purpose. Long before we were born God foreknew our existence and our fate. In Christ he called us into his kingdom, justifying us through the blood of Christ, our Savior. The promise is that he will complete the process by giving us all the glory of heaven in the future.

Paul speaks of all these acts as if they were completed and done. He does this because of the complete assurance given us by God in the presence of his spirit. It is this assurance that enables the Christian to look at this world of sin, hatred, war, and death, and live in peace, knowing God has provided us a life rich beyond description.

And the Spirit of God, dwelling in our hearts, continues to bear witness that God will keep his promise to his children. This is why the chapter is so rich in meaning to the Christian.

Living by Christ's example

By Bobby Lee, Tupelo
Philippians 2:1-13

"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ." If they had experienced anything of the gentle encouragement of Christ, and most certainly they had, then that experience should challenge them to live together in a state of harmony. What Christ had done for them, and for us, should be an incentive to peaceful and purposeful pursuits. The very fact that believers are one in Christ should have a binding effect upon us. In the body of Christ there is no room for schism, cliques, isolated groups and divisions. Instead, let us act as though the ministry of Christ in our behalf were a blessed reality.

If the love of God had been shed abroad in their hearts, comforting them, it would promote among them harmonized relations. The tenderness of God, as experienced in his love for his children, should urge them to live together in a spirit of unity. Since God loved them enough to sacrifice his son for them they should love one another with that same sacrificial love. There is no internal strife where God's love is appreciated. The moment Christ ceases to be real to us, we lose our affection for others.

As Christians, they surely had known somewhat of the communion of the Holy Spirit. Now they are to be

willing to walk in the fellowship of the spirit. If there is one reason why there should be unity, it is found right here.

If there is anything to your Christian experience, then there is an impulse of sympathy for others.

Beginning in verse 5 Paul is not making an appeal to strive for the intellectual perfection that was Christ. As a man, he was, what no other man ever can be—God. His was the mind of deity.

Keep in mind that Paul has been pleading for lowliness of mind, humility of spirit, among believers. How perfectly and completely our Lord demonstrated genuine humility. In his infinite stoop from sovereignty to slavery, God became a man, and just as he possessed the full essence of deity, he "was made in the likeness of men," taking upon him the very essence of humanity, apart from sin. He identified himself with us in his humiliation. The world has never witnessed a truer expression of self-renunciation. When we ponder the fact that God became man, labored with his hands, faced life in every respect as man, served, sorrowed, and suffered, we stand in holy awe and wonder at so great condescension. The Sovereign of all became the Servant of all.

Rather striking is the fact that the one who humbled himself is once more exalted, and here his exaltation is extended to a larger sphere than before. At no time since Christ's first advent has "every knee" bowed to him and "every tongue" confessed his Lordship. But because of his voluntary act of humility, he is to be exalted to the highest rank and authority, to supreme sovereignty.

The apostle's statement telling the saints to work out their own salvation, has been a perplexing one to many who have taught that salvation, from start to finish, is dependent upon God's grace.

The saved man is God's workmanship, but he is also a workman himself. His obedience to truth should not depend upon his nearness to spiritual oversight and Christian influence. Victorious Christian living, in obedience to the truths of God's Word, never relaxes.

We work and God works. It is a mutual effort toward the common goal of glorifying God in our lives. Here is a blending and interacting of God's sovereign grace and power and man's free will. God works in us but we dare not be passive. We work, too, and our work and the exercise of our wills are never at greater liberty than when thus engaged in doing "his